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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
DIOCESE OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE

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UNIVERS  
BR.

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

February 28, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW Room 814  
Washington, DC 20054

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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Dear Chairman Hundt:

We write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act -- through its Universal Service Fund provisions -- mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination, and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries. These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,



Sister Joanne Callahan, OSU  
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Rachelle B. Chong  
Susan Ness  
James Quello

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**ARCHBISHOP CURLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

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UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

February 28, 1997

Chairman Reed Hundt  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

It has been brought to my attention that the Federal Communications Commission will be reviewing the unanimous recommendations of the Federal State Joint Board regarding universal service provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The Snowe-Rockefeller-Exon-Kerry amendment to that will would provide discounts for telecommunications services to schools and libraries. particularly for internal wiring, video, and Internet services at a discounted rate.

As an administrator of a private school which serves families of modest means, I cannot stress strongly enough how important this assistance can be. Families sacrifice to send their children to schools such as Curley, and in so doing save taxpayers billions of dollars (more than a million dollars a day in Maryland alone). Our budgets are so tight that it becomes increasingly difficult to provide the latest technological advances. Such discounts will help these children who are such an important part of America's future.

I urge you and the other members of the Federal Communications Commission to support these recommendations, and thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Rev. Donald Grzymski, OFM Conv.

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DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE **EDUCATION**

February 27, 1997

CC: 96-45  
OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
SISTER MARY ANNE HEENAN  
Diocesan Superintendent of Schools

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M St. NW, Room 814  
Washington, D.C. 20054

CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act - through its Universal Service Fund provisions - mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

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I urge your support for the joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely yours,

*Charles S. Vavonese*

Rev. Charles S. Vavonese  
Associate Superintendent

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